

Win Over Dulwich Keeps Wycombe In Title Race

Dulwich Hamlet 0, Wycombe Wanderers 3

WYCOMBE WANDERERS maintained their challenge for the Isthmian League championship with this win over struggling Dulwich at Champion Hill on Saturday. But they made hard work of beating their bottom-of-the-table opponents.

The Wanderers were again without Tony Horseman, who might well have had a field day against a defence which has conceded 91 goals this campaign.

But in the first half, Wycombe looked stale and showed no imagination and cohesion in their moves. More important, no player was running off the ball with any real effect.

It was, however, a different story in the second half when Wycombe produced a 20-minute spell of brilliant attacking football during which they swept home three goals.

Manager-coach Barry Darvill was far from satisfied with his team's first half performance. "I read the riot act to them at half-time," he said.

"Passing was too casual and they took it for granted goals would come against a side like Dulwich."

ROYSTONE BACK

Wycombe, without Ian Rundle, best man at a wedding, brought in Vince Faulkner at centre-half and Peter Roystone was back to strengthen the defence.

Dulwich obviously surprised the Wanderers in the first half with their lively attack. Maskell was soon in the wars, limping in the first minute after a fall in taking a corner, which aggravated an old injury.

On a number of occasions Maskell was tested with long-range efforts which caused him considerable anxiety. Handicapped by his injury, the keeper could not command his area with the usual confidence.

To illustrate how little attacking football Wycombe played in the first period, they forced their first corner after 33 minutes play. Samuels went close with an acrobatic effort and Gale saw his drive well held by keeper Edwards.

Just before the interval Dulwich nearly broke through when Maskell blocked Pearton's header. The ball bounced clear and, as Woollard closed in, Roystone cleared.

FASTER PACE

In the second half Wycombe increased the tempo, taking the initiative and forcing Dulwich onto the defensive. The forwards' work rate increased, with Merrick and Bates switching constantly and Worley seeing more of the ball.

In the 50th minute Wycombe went ahead when Merrick sent over a pin-point centre and Busby, moving forward, flashed home a glorious header just under the bar.

Heartened by this breakthrough, the Wanderers kept up the pressure and scored again 11 minutes later. Bates swung over a corner which keeper Edwards missed and the ball ran loose to Worley, who drove home through a crowd of players.

The last goal was the best of the match and certainly worth waiting for. It came in the 79th minute—a move which would have ripped open any defence.

Busby started the move in midfield and Merrick and Bates swopped passes before the latter dropped a centre at the feet of Samuels, who deftly lobbed it home into the top right hand corner.

Dulwich Hamlet: A. Edwards; F. Evans, R. Homewood; J. Hammond, R. Hills, R. Cane; P. Smith, M. Woollard, D. Wise, T. Pearton, T. Dew.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Roystone; B. Baker, V. Faulkner, C. Gale; L. Worley, V. Busby, P. Bates, K. Samuels, L. Merrick.